

Preface

Cancer is the most life-threatening disease all over the world. To reduce cancer mortality, early detection and treatment are essential. Endoscopy is the one of primary diagnostic methods for cancers of various organs.

Initially endoscopic diagnosis was limited to organs which were located relatively near the body surface: ear, nose, anus, etc. Due to the development of fiberoptic endoscopes, endoscopic examination came to be performed in almost any space of the body. In addition to great progress in diagnosis, the endoscopic treatment has begun in the earliest 1980's. Endoscopic resection has been the most common method, especially in the field of gastroenterology. The improvements of accessory instruments as well as in fiberscopes has made endoscopic treatment safer and less traumatic. Endoscopic resection is performed safely using high frequency current. Furthermore, laser treatment has been increasingly common employed in recent years. The indications of endoscopic treatment has increased particularly in recent years and conventional open surgery is now sometimes avoidable. Endoscopists are continually developing new techniques depending on the site, size and shape of the tumors.

In this special issue, the latest techniques and results are presented by leading endoscopists. I hope for that new developments through comparison of different techniques used in various fields.

Yoshihiro Sakai
Associate Editor